



PRESIDENT CORAZON C. Aquino is flanked by outgoing Agriculture Secretary Ramon V. Mitra and Economic Czar Solita Monsod during the signing of the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF) at Heroes Hall, Malacañang recently. At extreme left is incoming agriculture secretary Carlos G. Dominguez.

Aquino cites need for integrated credit

(Excerpts from the speech of President Aquino during the signing of the Consolidated Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF) at Malacañang, Feb. 19, 1987)

TODAY WE take another step towards improving the productivity of the farming sector and the lives of our farmers. By establishing the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund, we have created an organization devoted to meeting the credit needs of our agricultural sector.

The CALF pools the government's resources in agricultural credit. The various small funds thirty-eight in all — are now integrated into a larger fund. More farmers now have access to a wider range of projects. The Agricultural Credit Policy Council will combine the research, coordination and fund management activities of the government so that the best use is made of our agricultural credit resources.

We are very much aware that the current size of the CALF is quite small compared to the total credit requirements of Philippine agriculture. I understand that the total expected demand for agricultural credit for 1987 will approximately be sixty billion pesos. CALF will provide 700 million pesos.

However, the CALF's relatively small size merely underscores the importance of my government's partnership with the private sector in the development of our economy. We know that the banking system, especially the large commercial banks are very liquid. Yet as businessmen, bankers are wary of the risks inherent in agriculture. Therefore, by operating the CALF principally as a guarantee fund, our government will be able to reduce those risks. The private banks will thus be more willing to lend to farmers.

See Aquino cites, Page 6

BPI thrusts gain headway

AGRICULTURE Ramon V. Mitra urged the Ministry personnel during the 57th anniversary of the Bureau of Plant Industry to harness all the resources in an effort to put to work and contribute to the country's national recovery.

Minister Ramon V. Mitra said that despite the handicap that the country has faced, agriculture stands as top contributor to the Gross National Product (GNP). The agriculture, fishery and forestry sector contributed 3.3 percent growth for 1986.

He reported that the Department is working on white potato project where there is a big market in ASEAN countries. Japan, Singapore and Hongkong, he said, has offered a \$200 million market for white potatoes.

This year's eminence awardees are: S. K. de

See BPI, Page 6

Aggie dept. reorganized

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture and Food has been renamed Department of Agriculture (DA) and has absorbed the Philippine Coconut Authority, National Food Authority, Sugar Regulatory Administration and Quedan Guarantee Fund Board.

The reorganization of the DA is contained in Executive Order 116 signed by President Corazon C. Aquino on Jan. 30, 1987. The order also mandated the

department to promote "agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises."

The department will have one secretary assisted by five undersecretaries and five assistant secretaries. Heads of NFA and PCA will have the rank of undersecretaries.

The five undersecretaries

will handle regional operations, staff operations, policy and planning, attached agencies and special concerns. The assistant secretaries will head five different groups concerned with production; agribusiness; research, training and extension; planning and monitoring; and support.

The production group shall be composed of four bureaus: 1) animal industry, 2) plant industry, 3)

See Aggie dept., Page 6

CALF starts P 700 M fund to generate loans

President Corazon C. Aquino has signed an executive order pooling an initial P700 million into a comprehensive agricultural loan fund (CALF) to guarantee loans to small farmers and fishermen.

The CALF was taken from 38 loan funds which were consolidated to:

1) Enable the Department of Agriculture and Food to focus its financing support on small farmers

Agriculture and Food Secretary Ramon V. Mitra said small farmers will be the main beneficiaries of the loans which have been limited to P500,000.

He said DAF can direct the coverage to priority commodities or to lending in the most depressed areas of the country.

and fishermen:

2) Make DAF flexible in responding to the requirements of farmers for production credit marketing and processing;

3) Professionalize the management of government agricultural credit funds, and reduce the costs of their administration; and

4) Preserve and nurture the funds to growth through optimum investments.

The government is depending on the financial support of the private sector to meet the P60-billion credit loans of agriculture.

Agri-lending was integrated to improve the management of the government's limited loan funds and widen their coverage. The cost of administering the funds

will be lessened.

The CALF itself will not be lent out, but will be used as a guarantee fund for loans made by banks, especially those made to small farmers.

As the risks in agricultural loans will be reduced, lending to agricultural borrowers will

See CALF, Page 6



CUTTING OF THE RIBBON — Mrs. Carmen A. Eugenio, assisted by Director Gianzon and Undersecretary Ansaldo.

DOMINGUEZ BACK AS AGGIE SECRETARY

CARLOS DOMINGUEZ was recently sworn in as the new secretary of agriculture by President Corazon C. Aquino in Malacañang.

Dominguez returns to the aggie portfolio after serving the Department of Natural Resources for more than three months.

What's inside



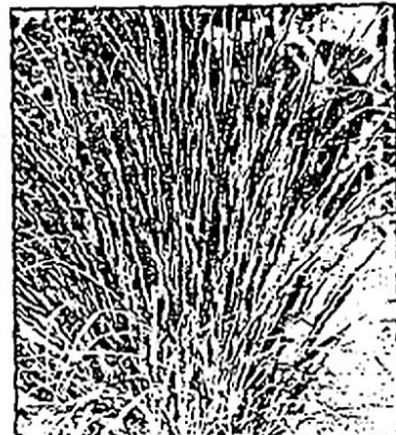
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Meet undersecretary Bobby Ansaldo and asst. sec. Teddy Gonzales p.4



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EDITORIALS

CALF integrates funds

With the creation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF) which President Corazon C. Aquino formally signed into existence in Malacanang recently, hopefully more credit will flow into the agricultural sector. This is because the operation of CALF aims to reduce the risks in small agricultural loans. The pooling of small, separate fragmented loans into one big professionalized body was undertaken not only to minimize inefficiencies in the government's management of its limited loan funds but also to maximize the effective coverage of these funds. Likewise, the CALF aims to serve the credit needs of the small farmers and fishermen not only in their production requirements but also in their marketing and processing needs.

Another factor considered for its consolidation is the funds could also be invested in good projects to generate income and pursue its optimum growth.

However, CALF will not function as a lending institution. It will be operated as a guarantee fund. It will guarantee up to a maximum of 85 percent of the loans issued by participating banks. Furthermore, the amount loanable to the farmer has a maximum limit of P500,000, purposefully channelling the funds for the credit needs of the small farmers.

This is a big step towards the rehabilitation of the credit facilities in the country. With the government guaranteeing 85% of the loans, it is predicted that more money will go to the agriculture sector. The banks will most likely shed their hesitancy in approving loans for agricultural projects as the government is the guarantor for the farmers' loans. Besides business community has been very supportive of the government and there is no doubt they will answer the call of the President to fill up the gap between CALF's loan fund of P700 M and the agricultural credit needs of the country which is approximately P60 B.

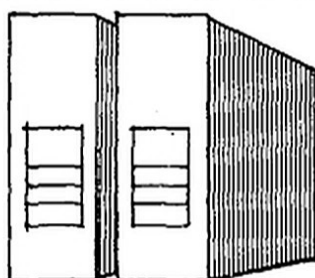
As the agricultural sector has posted a 3.3 percent growth for 1986 in the country's economy and has continued to make its mark in our GNP, it has been increasing apparent that agriculture will be the main catalyst for the economic stability of the country.

And with the pooling of all agricultural loan funds into one super professional body and other structural changes being implemented to promote the agriculture sector, economic stability will no longer be a far-fetched dream but a reality in the near future.

Adieu and hail!!!

Hon. Ramon V. Mitra leaves the Department of Agriculture with a heavy heart as agriculture has always been closest to his heart. However, he could not refuse the call of President Aquino to run for the House of Representatives and be the next speaker of the House. Besides, he could not refuse to serve his own people in Palawan.

However, with the resignation of Secretary Mitra who has implemented numerous agricultural policies and structural changes for the improvement of the farmers, we are regaining a bright and conscientious man—the Hon. Carlos G. Dominguez. Being a part of Sec. Mitra's A-team before he was "pilfered" by the ministry of natural resources, we are sure that there will be no changing of horses in the mid-stream and that he will continue the policies instituted by Sec. Mitra.



DA-FILE

Breakthrough in computer service



SECRETARY MITRA is warmly greeted by rank-and-file employees after his birthday Mass offering.



ASUNCION



BERGARA



MATA



BOOL



MELENDRES



LADERA



SALAZAR



DANTES



MACALINGAG

FEBRUARY IS undoubtedly a month that one never forgets! First, it is the month for lovers as St. Valentine's day falls on the 14th of the month. Then, it is a month full of important milestones — the birthday of our beloved Minister — oops, Secretary Ramon V. Mitra; the date of the plebiscite when the 1986 Constitution was finally ratified, and most important of all, the anniversary of the end of 20-year dictatorship rule and the beginning of a beautiful tomorrow for all freedom-loving Filipinos.

February 4, 1987 — Secretary Mitra celebrated his "40th" birthday as he gleefully told his well-wishers, with a mass offering from DAF employees officiated by Father Tirso Gil. After receiving his guests, mainly DAF officials and employees, the Secretary motored to Malacanang to attend a Cabinet meeting.

This month brings to mind the unsung heroes who fought tenaciously for truth and who joined the legion of computer analysts who walked out in protest over the manipulation of election results and dared the ire of the establishment.

One such lady, Ms. Myrna A. Asuncion, formerly project analyst of the National Computer Center, was appointed chief of the Computer Service Center (CSC). In less than a year, she has achieved a major breakthrough in the computer service, reportedly a "white elephant" of the Department.

Newcomers in the CSC are Ma. Carmina F. Bergara as Systems Analyst and Romeo Mata as EDP Chief I. Promoted to EDP Chief I from Supervising Systems Analyst, is tall and slim as a reed, Bedelia M. Bool. Jose Melendres, formerly computer programmer, was named

EDP systems analyst. Carmelita Manalac, an EDP systems analyst, was promoted to senior EDP systems analyst; and Benjamin Burgos, from supervising computer operator to EDP operation assistant.

Birthday celebrants for this month are Eduardo Ladera, a co-celebrant of Sec. Mitra, Feb. 4; Karenina Salazar, a study grantee of

a 10-month course in journalism in India, Feb. 10; Jose Niosco, chief of management division, Feb. 19; bible-reading librarian committed to spreading the word of God, Nora Dantes, Feb. 25; and Personnel Officer III Vicky Macalincag who invited friends and associates to lunch on Feb. 26 to celebrate her natal day. (LAI)

AGGIE TRENDS



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Biological crop protection

THE BIOLOGICAL oriented crop protection program will be launched soon to replace the RP-German Crop Protection Program which expires March 1987. This was disclosed by Eberhard Pfuhl, project manager of the RP-German Crop Protection Program.

The 9-year program will be jointly financed by the German government, the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Philippine government. It has appropriated a budget of P84 million for a three-year operation.

The German consultant said his government has invested P240 million on infrastructures such as buildings, laboratories, training and campaign materials on integrated pest management (IPM).

IPM information campaign consists of two major phases: first, the awareness plugs using short messages or plugs aired through MAF farmcasters and members of Federation of Rural Broadcasters (FRB); second phase is the use of 20 to 25 minute mini-dramas on IPM technology.

DA employees association

A STRENGTHENED DA employees association has been formed for effective civil service as an offshoot of Memo Circular No. 8 of the Civil Service Commission dated Aug. 1, 1986.

Ten delegates who attended the Government Employees Congress at Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Sept. 19, 1986 plus additional five members formed the MAF employees core group to draft the constitution and by-laws for Ministry Proper employees.

The draft constitution was deliberated upon in general assembly convoked Feb. 19 at MAF gym pre-

sided by ad hoc chairman Jose P. Nitullano. Immediately after, ratification of the constitution was held with the following results: 121 voted Yes, 1 voted No, and 38 abstained.

Editor's note:

We have included in this issue the appointment of Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez to the Department of Agriculture as we are still at presstime when he was appointed on March 9.

Regions on the go

REGION 2

SOME 500 participants graduated in the Masagana Farm Program school-on-the-air Jan. 23 during closing ceremonies held at St. Mary's College Gymnasium in Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya.

The school-on-the-air course on livestock and poultry production, aired over radio DWMG, was the second of agriculture-related radio broadcast in the province for 1986. The first course was on organic fertilizer with 400 participants-graduates.

The radio program aired on 5:00 to 5:30 A.M. with Loreto L. Agraam as farmcaster, reaches the municipalities of Bayombong, Bambang, Bagabag, Solano, Villaverde and Quezon.

Among the outstanding graduates were Romeo Sierra of Bagabag, Ferlaminda Calang-ad of Bayombong and Leticia Corpuz of Bambang. Each winner received a trophy and livestock animals.

Outstanding graduates were determined on the results of written examination and evaluation of individual projects.

Also given recognition as outstanding lecturer for his innovative approach in community broadcasting was Rudy Toledo.

Subject matters taught include: feedlot cattle fattening, swine and poultry production, artificial insemination, goat raising and diseases of small and large animals.

Also present during the graduation rites were Governor Belen F. Calderon, Provincial Agricultural Officer Felipe A. Panganiban, Provincial Veterinarian and School-on-the-Air

School-on-the-Air Chairman Dr. Benjamin Daguiog and Regional Information Officer Ernie Macabiog.

(Raul V. Limbo)

REGION 3

SOME 2,500 head of dairy cattle for dispersal has been allotted to farmers in four towns of Bulacan through the dispersal program of the Bureau of Animal Industry, DAF.

Assistant Secretary Dante Q. Barbosa recently bared this plan during the launching of the expanded Sta. Maria Dairy Development Program.

This program is intended to increase local milk production covering the towns of Sta. Maria, Norzagaray, San Jose, and Angat.

The launching ceremonies also coincided with the turn-over of 27 Holstein-Sahiwal crosses and the dairy equipment grant from the ASEAN Australia Economic Cooperation, which include milk tanks, buckets, dispenser, packaging machine, ice cream maker, AI equipment, semen tanks and motorcycles.

Part of the expanded dairy project is the introduction of module-type scheme wherein middle-income farmers can invest in the development of the dairy industry. Originally, dairying is concentrated among backyard dairy farmers who normally own one or two dairy cattle.

So far, the Sta. Maria Dairy Farmers Association with BAI has dispersed some 1,600 Brahman crosses to as many members.

BAI Director Dr. Carme Caspe cited the need to increase local milk production as the government spends \$150

million yearly in milk and milk products importation. He said that local milk production could only account for 2% of our needs.

Caspe cited Sta. Maria, Bulacan as the ideal site for the expanded dairy program because of the availability of manpower and technology, the presence of a processing plant, and the proximity to market outlets in Metro Manila.

REGION 6

THE FIRST Iloilo Farmers' Association Convention was held at the West Visayan State University (WVSU) Cultural Center, La Paz, Iloilo City last Jan. 22. This was disclosed by Region 6, Provincial Agricultural Officer Felicitio Tidon.

Assistant Minister Apolonio V. Bautista, guest speaker of the convention, stressed that the programs and thrusts of MAF are designed to uplift the living conditions of the farmers.

Highlight of the affair was the awarding of the most outstanding rice farmers of the year both for rainfed and irrigated areas. Trophies, sprayers and cash prizes were given to the winners.

First prize winner in the provincial rainfed rice category was Paterino Artacho of Talokgan, Banate; for irrigated rice category, Silverio Nativo of Bitar Sur, Oton.

Governor Licorgo Tirona expressed his wholehearted support to the farmers' convention and other agricultural activities. Important guests were Butch Aquino and ranking MAF officials. (V. Encanto & R. Munoz)

REGION 7

MODEL CO-OP — Balilihan Cooperative's success is remarkable. From an initial capital of P4,500 and membership of 20 RIC's from 20 barangays, the Balilihan Rural Improvement Club Federated Consumer Cooperative Inc. today boasts of a total capital of P67,140.7 and individual stockholders of 66.

The Balilihan RIC Cooperative started as a pre-cooperative on April 18, 1983, with Mrs. Victoria M. Chatto as Chairman.

The original capital of P4,500 was earned from a RIC-sponsored raffle, "Hara sa Panimalay" contest, Christmas caroling and donations from COCOFED Chairman Ma. Clara Lobregat. Other funds came from membership fees. Additional capital poured in when a KKK loan of P6,000 was approved and another RIC-DCI loan amounting to P7,500 was granted. These loans were paid in full after a year.

During the first ten months, the cooperative was manned by volunteers. When finances allowed it, the cooperative hired two sales ladies at P8. per day. Later, a bookkeeper was hired with an honorarium of P100 a month and a cashier at P200 a month.

Among the goods on sale are rice, canned goods, grocery items, fertilizer, school supplies, hardware, some pharmaceutical products and other household items.

The cooperative also provides weavers with raw materials at reasonable costs. It accepts catering contracts for seminars and conferences. It also takes charge of making wreaths or providing provisions during wakes. The cooperative conducted trainings on how to make soap, cooking oil, soy sauce and vinegar.

Home Management Technologist Mrs. Sarah G. Parras has steered the cooperative to its proper place in the community through her technical guidance. (M. Ligan)

REGION 8

NAVAL, BILIRAN Subprovince — "there is money in handicrafts," said Primitiva Rosario, noted pot tray maker in

Paper out of rice straw



NINE HOUSEWIVES and out-of-school youth are engaged in manufacture of rice straw paper in Los Baños, Laguna.

A PILOT project to manufacture paper from rice straw has been launched by housewives and out-of-school youth in Los Baños, Laguna.

The rice straw paper project was stimulated through "Prosperity Through Rice," a joint project of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños to find uses for byproducts of rice. The Prosperity project is sponsored by the Asian Development Bank.

The Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) in Los Baños has trained nine persons to make paper by hand from rice straw. Five are women.

"This is the first rice straw paper unit in the Philippines," says Mrs. Rosenda Visperas, FPRDI program coordinator. Each person makes about 50 sheets of paper, 8 by 12 inches, per day.

The total investment for equipment to start production was about P10,000 (\$500). FPRDI lent the equipment to the barrio people.

IRRI was the project's first customer. IRRI printed its 1986 Christmas cards on rice straw paper.

"Making paper from rice straw has tremendous potential to convert waste into wealth," says Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, IRRI director general. "It can generate income and employment in both rural and urban areas. We hope this technology will be improved, and might spread across the Philippines and other Asian countries."

Culaba, Biliran Subprovince of Leyte.

Mrs. Rosario earns at least P42 a day by making pot trays made of coconut midribs. She can finish six pot trays a day, taking less than an hour to finish one pot tray. She also makes basket, thermos tray and flower vase out of it.

These handicrafts are very much in demand that she cannot meet orders even from neighboring areas.

"Handicraft making has greatly helped us in our livelihood," she said. "It is our only source of income, especially now that my husband is jobless. Besides, it is a profitable business because the raw materials are cheap and readily available," she added. (Gershon E. Apura)

REGION 12

PPA ON FULL GEAR — Officer-in-Charge Alex

Yadao disclosed recently the implementation of different Program/ Project/ Activities or PPA in Central Mindanao under the Short-Term Economy Recovery Program (STERP). The total amount allocated for the purpose is P18,346,392.

Among the programs were those for (NFAC) special crop production, extension and soil conservation; production and distribution of seeds and other plant materials; nutrition, farm and home management practices, rural youth development, diffusion of technology on crops and livestock.

Fishery extension services include support to the Biyangang Dagat Program, KKK and Unlad Palaisdaan, fish seed production, rearing and disposal, and enforcement of fishery laws.

Crop protection support activities include pest management, distribution of certified seeds of hybrid corn, potato, coffee and other seeds for coconut intercropping program. (Minda R. Diloy)



TURNOVER CEREMONIES — Assistant Secretary Dante Q. Barbosa (in stripes with lei) leads government officials in the turnover ceremonies of the DAF's cattle dispersal project in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Also in photo (from left) are Ex-Minister Rogacion Mercado, Region 3 Director Dr. Renato Bulay, Bulacan Governor Roberto Pagdanganan, and BAI Director Dr. Carme Caspe.

Ansaldo is undersecretary of dept of agriculture

JOINING THE A-Team at DAF is Roberto "Bobby" W. Ansaldo as undersecretary filling up the post vacated by then Deputy Minister Carlos G. Dominguez. A young man with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro, he was valedictorian of the graduating class and a Xavier awardee for academic excellence and extracurricular involvements. Major in Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Economics, he took up Master in Business Management at the prestigious Asian Institute of Management (AIM). His work experience includes senior division manager of agribusiness division, Ayala Corporation and vice-president, director and chief operating officer of Ayala Agricultural Development Corporation 1983-85; operations manager divisions, Central



PRESIDENT AQUINO swears into office the new DA Undersecretary Roberto W. Ansaldo. His wife, children, immediate relatives and friends witnessed the oath-taking.

Azucarera De Bais, Negros Oriental, 1979-83; manager for project development, A. Chan Sugar Corporation, Makati, Metro Manila, 1977-79; agri-business consultant, Philippine Investment Management Consultants, Inc. (PHINMA), and general manager, Kabankalan Sugar Company, Negros Occidental, 1975-77; plantation section supervisor, Phil-

ippine Packing Corporation, Cagayan de Oro, 1971-75; consultant, on-loan basis from Del Monte to Mindanao Development Authority 1971-72.

He held various directorship posts in Ayala Agricultural Development Corporation and Shell Chemical Company.

Ansaldo was a professor of agri-business at Xavier University MBA

program, 1973-75; and professor of agricultural development at De La Salle University MBA program, 1976. He was also member of the Board of Trustees, and program director of the MBA program at Xavier University.

Born on June 22, 1946 in Manila, Undersecretary Ansaldo is married to Ma. Lourdes Celdran. They have four children.

Meet the new assistant secretary Teddy Gonzales



Teodoro C. Gonzales, the newly designated OIC for the DA's Bureau and Planning Service is a lawyer with an impressive scholastic record.

A magna cum laude graduate and class valedictorian of the College of Law, Baguio Colleges Foundation, he placed 15th in the 1979 bar exams.

Born in Baguio City on October 2, 1954, he is also an AB Economics graduate, magna cum laude from St. Louis University, Baguio City.

A criminal law professor at the BCF, he is a licensed appraiser having placed second in the 1974 government examination for Real Estate Broker. He also garnered third place in Real Estate Appraiser exams in 1981.

He was executive secretary to Baguio City mayor and administrative officer, Baguio City, from March to June 1986.

From July to December the same year, he was Minister Mitra's executive assistant at the then Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

He is also a member of PCGG, Baguio chapter and past recipient of Outstanding Young Personalities of Baguio and Benguet.

He is married to the former Loiva Claridades and has two children, Sef, six, and Clodine, three.

Some provisions on Executive Order no. 116

SEC. 13. Production Group. The following Bureaus shall comprise the Production Group:

- (a) **Bureau of Animal Industry:** The Bureau of Animal Industry shall formulate long- and short-range programs for the development and expansion of the livestock, poultry and dairy industries to meet the protein requirements of the growing populace; recommend the specific policies and procedures governing the flow of livestock products through the various stages of marketing, as well as the proper preservation and inspection of such products; coordinate and monitor the activities and projects relating to livestock and allied industries; prescribe standards for quality in the manufacture, importation, labelling, advertising, distribution, and sale of livestock, poultry and allied industries; for its own sector, recommend plans, programs, policies, rules and regulations to the Minister and provide technical assistance in the implementation of the same;
- (b) **Bureau of Plant Industry:** The Bureau of Plant Industry shall be responsible for the production planning of improved planting materials, protection of agricultural crops from pests and diseases, and development and improvement of farm equipment and other related structures to the plant industry; prepare a program for the selection, production and certification of improved planting materials as well as guidelines for its implementation; recommend plant quarantine policies, and prescribe rules and regulations for the prevention, control and eradication of pests, diseases, and injuries to plants and plant products; for its own sector, recommend plans, programs, policies, rules and regulations to the Minister and provide technical assistance in the implementation of the same;
- (c) **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources:** The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall formulate plans for the proper management, accelerated development, and proper utilization of the country's fishery and aquatic resources; for this purpose, undertake studies on the economics of various phases of the fish-

ing industry to form the bases for the formulation of policies and programs on fisheries and aquatic resources; render technical assistance and advisory services in the proper procurement, construction, and operation of the fishing vessels as well as determination and designation of fish landing points for all commercial fishing boats; for its own sector, recommend plans, programs, policies, rules and regulations to the Minister and provide technical assistance in the implementation of the same;

- (d) **Bureau of Soils and Water Management:** The Bureau of Soils and Water Management shall advise and render assistance on matters relative to the utilization and management of soils and water as vital agricultural resources; formulate measures and guidelines for effective soil, land, and water resource utilization, as well as soil conservation in croplands and other agricultural areas; undertake soil research programs; coordinate with the relevant government agencies in resettlement areas and prepare the necessary plans for the provision of technical assistance in solving of soil, impounding and prevention of soil erosion, fertility preservation, and other related matters; engage in rainmaking projects for agricultural areas and watersheds to solve the problem of prolonged droughts and minimize their effects on standing agricultural crops; for its own sector, recommend plans, programs, policies, rules and regulations to the Minister and provide technical assistance in the implementation of the same.

SEC. 14. Research, Training and Extension Group. The following shall comprise the Research, Training and Extension Group:

- (a) **Bureau of Agricultural Research:** The Bureau of Agricultural Research shall ensure that all agricultural research is coordinated and undertaken for maximum utility to agriculture. It shall tap farmers, farmers' organizations and research institutions, especially the state colleges and universities, in the conduct of research for use of the Ministry and its clientele, particularly

the farmers/fishermen and other rural workers;

- (b) **Agricultural Training Institute:** The Agricultural Training Institute shall be responsible for the training of all agricultural extension workers and their clientele, who are mostly farmers and other agricultural workers; ensure that training programs address the real needs of the agricultural sector; ensure that the research results are then communicated to the farmers through the appropriate training and extension activities;
- (c) **Bureau of Agricultural Cooperatives Development:** The Bureau of Agricultural Cooperatives Development shall formulate an integrated system for development and evaluation of agricultural cooperatives; provide advise and assistance in the establishment of agricultural cooperatives in the rural communities; evolve a program to promote the economic viability of agricultural cooperatives.

SEC. 15. Agri-Business Group. The following Services shall comprise the Agri-Business Group:

- (a) **Marketing Assistance Services:** The Marketing Assistance Service shall be responsible for identifying markets for Philippine agricultural products; assist in the planning of market centers, marketing channels and distribution networks;
- (b) **Agribusiness Investment Information Services:** The Agribusiness Investment Information Service shall cause the research, gather and collate related to agribusiness such as laws and regulations, taxation, production technologies, market strategies, competition, foreign assistance, grants, credit, and new venture considerations relating to agribusiness; package information on agribusiness investment opportunities and provide sample feasibility studies for different agricultural products and markets.

SEC. 16. Planning and Monitoring Group. The following Services shall comprise the Planning and Monitoring Group:

- (a) **Planning and Monitoring Services:** The Planning
- See Provisions, Page 6

Turnover ceremonies



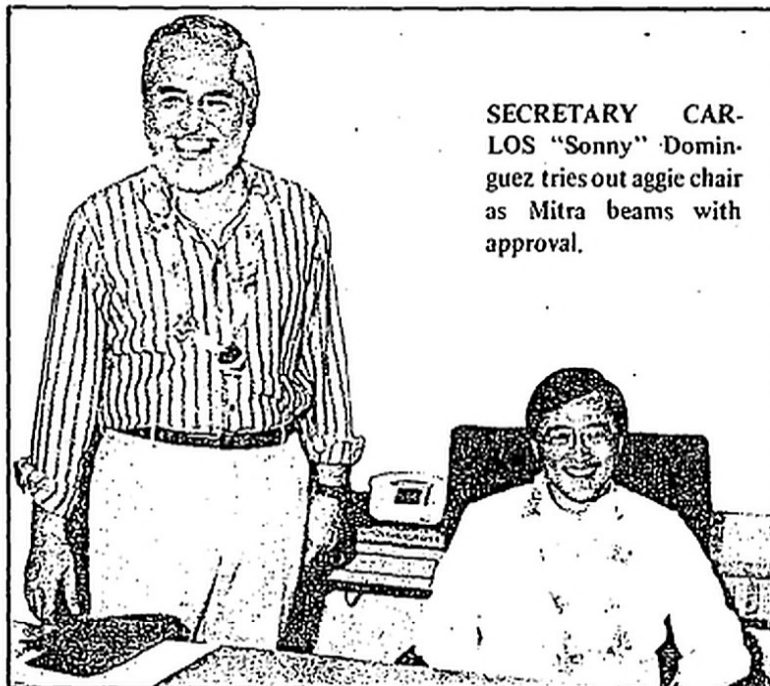
INCOMING SECRETARY of Agriculture Carlos G. Dominguez is accompanied by outgoing Secretary Ramon V. Mitra as he takes his first steps inside the aggie building after he was sworn in by President Aquino in Malacañang vice Mitra who is running for a Congressional seat.



SECRETARY DOMINGUEZ is welcomed by Undersecretary Ansaldo at the staircase upon his return to aggie post after a short stint at department of natural resources. All smiles at the back are Mitra, Assistant Secretary Gozun, ASec Barbosa, Marinela Castillo of planning service, and bureau directors.



MITRA GIVES his farewell message to DA staff and officials.



SECRETARY CARLOS "Sonny" Dominguez tries out aggie chair as Mitra beams with approval.

AGGIE TRENDS ABROAD



Australia

• Hydrolized milk to curb malabsorption

Australian authorities succeeded in making hydrolized milk, a product acceptable to people suffering from lactose or milk sugar intolerance.

As high as 95 percent of non-Caucasian races are affected by lactose malabsorption which will develop diarrhea, abdominal cramps, distension and flatulence after drinking milk.

Hydrolized milk, a product achieved through milk hydrolysis, is sweeter than untreated milk and as sweet as normal milk with 2 percent sucrose added.

China

• Ecological farming method

A new farming method has been developed by 82-year old Chinese scientist Heu Guanjiang, of Sichuan province to increase crop yield. He recommends the maintenance of ecological balance between soil and crops based on the theory of keeping soil fertility through bacterial functions.

He said plowing damages the soil's natural structure. Under this method, furrows are dug and filled with water to retain the structure, humidity and manure. Rice seedlings are planted on ridges.

Experiments showed that the per hectare rice yield was one ton more than the usual cultural methods.

Papaya as cash crop

By Lilia V. Ortega

LIFE in the city is no bed of roses. Realizing this, Romeo M. Ambal soon set his mind on retiring as vice president of the Filipinas Life Insurance Co. at age 50.

Son of the former mayor, Ambal is the barangay captain of Aya, in San Jose, Batangas. An insurance executive in Manila, he opted to retire and be a farmer after sweating it out for more than 25 years in the grime and soot of Metro Manila. With the five hectares he inherited from his parents, he decided, he wanted to live a simple life in the farm.

San Jose town has always been black pepper country, but Ambal was looking for another good cash crop. He decided to grow papaya as there is a big demand for it. He also noted that papayas grown in Cavite are infested with white ring spot. Ambal then planted papaya at 6 ft x 6 ft distance on his 4,600 sq. m. with bananas as alternate.

As the female papaya tree does not produce pollen and is entirely dependent upon the presence of male or bisexual



PAPAYA KING Romeo Ambal with caretaker

trees for pollination, he planted male papaya trees, surrounded by some 20 female trees.

For fertilizer, he used urea twice, once at the initial stage of growth, and later to hasten its development. Mulching

was also practised to keep the trees from drying. With a good soil, adequate supply of water and fertilizer, his papaya trees grew and bear large fruits.

For the first cropping year, Ambal harvested 20 fruits per tree, with an

average weight of 2 kilos per papaya. For the second year, 30 fruits were harvested per tree and 35 fruits on its third year. Papayas were sold at P3.50 per kilo, farm-gate price.

Expenses for growing and cultivating papaya trees amounted to P9,900 for the first year and P8,000 and P6,765 for the second and third year. For the first year, Ambal grossed P31,500 from his papayas, giving him a net income of P21,000 for the first harvest.

BLACK PEPPER

Ambal also planted black pepper in his orchard as black pepper is a favorite crop in San Jose. There is a big demand for black pepper, and it is also sturdy, disease-free and profitable to grow. It commands a high price (P100 to P140 per kilo). Black pepper starts to bear on its third year and can produce 1-1/2 kilos of seeds per vine on its life span.

Besides black pepper which is planted on 3.2 hectares, the rest of his farm is planted to coffee, papaya and bananas.

Hawaii

• Computerizing farm activities

Computers can be used to schedule irrigation and fertilizer applications, to determine optimal ration for farm animals, and to keep crop and animal productivity records.

Up-to-the-minute weather forecasts and marketing informations are at the farm manager's fingertips when he links his computer to other data bases by telephone.

In planning to buy a computer, the farmer must define his goals like what specific functions he wants the machine to perform. He must also consider what changes may occur in his farming operations within the next few years that could possibly be computerized.

Canada

• Portable soil moisture meter

Clark Topp, a soil physicist with Agriculture Canada's Land Resources Research Institute in Ottawa, has developed a device that can easily and quickly measure the water content of soil in the field.

This device has two parallel metal rods which act as wave guide and are pushed into the ground. Using a compact computer, it translates the registered travel time of soil wave into water content percentage and the reading appears instantly on the display terminal.

Very useful for dryland farming, it answers problems confronting farmers, such as how much water did a certain crop use, what crops to plant and how deep to reach water content for germination.



AGRI-AQUA, LIVESTOCK & POULTRY FAIR

SECRETARY Ramon V. Mitra signs a memo of agreement with Philcote Director Jose Luis Yulo for the launching of an Agri-Aqua, Livestock and Poultry Fair at Philcote March 22-29. This year's fair will feature exhibits, symposia and farm visits and undertake all-out campaign to generate interest in potential agribusiness investments. The Cebu fair will be held April 25-May 2, and Cagayan de Oro May 17-24. Also in photo at the back (from left) Bebeth Gozun of DA, Maynel Lactaon of Philcote, ASEC Conrado C. Gozun, and Minky M. Alba of Philcote.



BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

AGRI DATA UPDATE

WHOLESALE PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES IN MAJOR TRADING CENTER, February 9-15, 1987

Commodity	Metro Manila		Cabanatuan		Cebu		Davao		Cag. de Oro	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Rice (per kilo)										
Special	6.00	8.00	6.50	6.20	6.00	6.50	5.90	6.30	5.40	6.00
Ordinary	5.10	6.50	5.00	5.70	5.30	5.50	5.00	5.40	5.20	5.40
Vegetables (per kilo)										
Amargoso	2.50	4.50	3.50	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00	*	*
Sitao	4.00	6.00	6.00	8.00	7.00	11.00	6.00	8.00	3.00	6.00
Garlic	22.00	40.00	25.00	30.00	25.00	27.00	20.00	25.00	30.00	35.00
Onion bulb (red)	10.00	18.00	15.00	16.00	15.00	18.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	18.00
Tomato	1.50	4.00	1.30	2.00	3.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.50	4.20
Fruits (per piece)										
Ripe banana										
Latundan	0.26	0.45	0.40	0.48	0.18	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.12	0.17
Bungulan	0.25	0.40	0.30	0.35	0.18	0.20	0.18	0.20	*	*
Lakatan	0.31	0.65	0.70	1.00	0.30	0.35	0.25	0.30	0.22	0.25
Papaya	4.50	9.00	5.00	6.50	8.00	10.00	4.00	5.00	*	*
Poultry (per piece)										
Broiler (live)	23.50	25.00	24.50	25.00	27.00	28.00	35.00	36.00	*	*
Eggs, white										
Leghorn	1.30	1.32	1.15	1.20	1.20	1.40	1.55	1.60	1.48	1.66
Fish (per kilo)										
Bangus	26.66	32.88	30.00	32.00	17.00	22.00	24.00	30.00	22.00	23.00
Galunggong	13.77	24.44	22.00	24.00	14.00	18.00	20.00	23.00	15.00	17.00

*No wholesale transaction.

The Agricultural Marketing News Services (AMNEWSS) of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAEcon) gathers wholesale and retail prices of 135 agricultural commodities from 23 wet markets and 5 supermarkets in Metro Manila and 65 provincial trading centers. Frequency of price collection is thrice a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 5 to 9 a.m.

Wholesale prices of fish, fruits, vegetables and poultry are taken from the trading center those for palay, rice, corn grains and corn grits from operators of bonded warehouses/bodegas or from rice and corn millers; while those for cattle, hogs and poultry from livestock and poultry dealers. On the other hand, retail price collection is confined to stallholders in the sample public markets.

Data processing and dissemination take place almost simultaneously in BAEcon provincial and central offices. The provincial offices disseminate prevailing prices and price ranges to local commercial radio stations. The central office publishes the prevailing prices in Metro Manila and provincial trading centers in the AMNEWSS Price Bulletin which is disseminated to selected broadcast and print media, government and private offices and other major users.

Please address all communications/inquiries to the Director, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Ben-Lor Building, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City; or to the Project Leader in BAEcon provincial offices.

CALF... (From Page 1)

be encouraged.

The CALF will guarantee up to a maximum of 85 percent of the loans issued by banks in good financial standing, including co-operative rural banks.

Banks participating in the CALF program must set aside their own loan funds for the needs of small farmers.

Accreditation under the CALF will be automatic for any bank already accredited under the Central Bank Agricultural Loan Fund, the Quedan Guarantee Fund Board, the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Scale Industries, the Integrated Rural Financing Program and the Central Bank's Rediscounting Facility.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) has been created in place of the Presidential Committee on Agricultural Credit (PCAC) and the Technical Board for Agricultural Credit (TBAC).

The ACPC will study, formulate and help enact policies which will shape and harness the financial market so that credit to agriculture is facilitated and analyzed.

The council will be the government's coordinator of financing of agricultural enterprises.

The ACPC will have two divisions; for research and management.

The research division will monitor and analyze events in agricultural finance, and provide policy analysis for decision-making.

The fund management division will help the Secretary of Agriculture and Food in the allocation and investment of funds integrated into the CALF.

BPI... (From Page 1)

Datta, Teofilo S. Eugenio, Cay D. Mentz, Benito C. Gonzalo, Felipe Aala, Felix N. Natino and Pedro M. Asico. Recognition awards were conferred to George Francisco, Patrick Yeo, Zosimo Falcis, and Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB).

Achievement awardees include Manuelito V. Macapas, Rogelio A. Santos, Reynaldo V. Moises, Natividad Echague, Teopisto T. Delloso, Bebianio C. Colegio, Alicia S. Acoba, Paz B. Austria, Rustica S. Bautista, Josefina S. Soriano and Augusto S. Baluyut. (Mon Barral)

Aquino cites... (From Page 1)

Our partnership with the private sector is also expressed in the government's program to strengthen the rural banking system. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank is now finalizing a series of measures which should relieve the rural banks of most of their debt burdens to the Central Bank, enlarge their operations, and restructure their loan portfolios. The result should be a system that may be smaller, but will be stronger, and a much more attractive area for private investment and professional management.

Finally, as mandated by our New Constitution, our government is looking into ways and means to support the growth and development of co-operatives. We recognize cooperatives as grassroots organizations with the great potential to harness the energy and enterprise of small farmers, as well as promote a more equitable distribution of wealth and income.

Aggie dept. ... (From Page 1)

fisheries and aquatic resources and 4) soil and water management.

The research, training and extension group will have the Bureau of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Training Institute and Bureau of Agricultural Co-operatives Development.

The agribusiness group will be comprised of the marketing assistance services and agribusiness investment information group.

The group of planning and monitoring will consist of planning and monitoring services, computer services and the bureau of agricultural statistics.

The support group will include financial and management service and administrative services.

The department was given the following powers:

It shall provide integrated services to farmers/fishermen and other food producers on production, utilization, conservation and disposition of agricultural and fishery resources.

It shall be responsible for

the planning, policy formulation, regulation, execution, monitoring and/or programs/activities relating to agriculture/food production and supply.

It shall establish central and regional information systems to serve the production, marketing and financing data requirements of the farmers as well as domestic and foreign investors in agribusiness ventures.

It shall provide comprehensive and effective extension services and training to farmers and other agricultural entrepreneurs on the production, marketing and financing aspects of agricultural enterprises.

It shall conduct, coordinate and disseminate research studies on appropriate technologies for the improvement/development of agricultural crops, fisheries and other allied commodities.

It shall provide the mechanism for the participation of farmers/fishermen and entrepreneurs at all levels of policy making and plan/program formulation.

Provisions, executive... (From Page 4)

and Monitoring Service shall be responsible for the formulation and integration of plans and programs emanating from all units of the Ministry, including the Bureaus, Regional Offices and Attached Agencies; be responsible for data analysis and monitoring of the implementation of said plans and programs through its management information system;

(b) Computer Services: The Computer Service shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of the electronic data processing requirements of the Ministry;

(c) Bureau of Agricultural Statistics: The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics shall be mainly responsible for the collection, compilation and official release of agricultural statistics; exercise technical supervision over data collection centers; coordinate all agricultural statistics and economic research activities of all bureaus, corporations and offices under the Ministry.

SEC. 17. Support Group. The following shall comprise the Support Group:

(a) Financial and Management Service: The Financial and Management Service shall provide services relating to budgeting, accounting and management;

(b) Administrative Service: The Administrative Service shall be responsible for providing personnel, legal, records and other general services.

(Continued next issue)

DIVERSIFICATION CROP

Just what is citronella?

By Elsa A. Lagunzad

VERY FEW people are familiar with this kind of plant. Many mistake it for a fruit, vitamin, or flower. Locally known as "tanglad," citronella is a kind of wild "mana" grass belonging to the Family *Graminae* from which oil is extracted. It is an indispensable ingredient in the manufacture of soap, perfume and other industrial products.

Citronella is being imported by our country in large quantities but as proven at the experiment station in Babatngon, Leyte, citronella grass can be grown profitably under Philippine conditions.

VARIETIES

The two cultivated varieties are Lenabatu (Ceylon type) which is narrow-leaved, hardier and contains 15 to 65 percent "geraniol"; and Mahapengeri (Java type) which is broad-leaved, requires much care in growing and contains 85 percent "geraniol".

The Lenabatu variety is used as deodorant for mosquito repellent, scent for soaps, sprays, disinfectants, paints and polish. The Mahapengeri variety is used as starting material for the preparation of industrial compounds derived from citronella oil.

Citronella grass thrives in any type of soil provided it is fertile. However, deep sandy soil in virgin and regenerated or green fertilized fields gives natural reconditioning to obtain good quality oil.

Citronella grows in low and high elevations, but thrives best in altitudes from 600 to 700 feet, under humid climate with regular rainfalls.

Tillers of citronella grass are obtained by dividing old clumps. Each clumpy yields about 10 sturdy divisions or tillers and two tillers are placed per hole.

After field is thoroughly prepared, furrows are spaced one meter apart, 50 to 70 centimeters apart be-



tween hills within rows. Citronella is also grown under coconut trees.

Hilling-up and weeding are done to improve yield and hasten plant growth.

While chemical fertilizer increases grass yield, green fertilization ensures higher oil yield. Apply 2 to 3 bags urea or 16-20-0 per hectare as basal or sidedressing.

HARVESTING

The usual practice is to harvest citronella 9 months after planting. However, under Leyte conditions, it can be harvested in 8 months. Three to four harvests could be done in one year under favorable conditions.

The best time to cut citronella grass is when

the stem has six adult leaves, with the seventh leaf rolled up. Cut leaves 6 to 8 inches above ground level. Too low cutting will include oil-free parts of the blades, which when distilled, diminishes oil yield.

After cutting, it is dried under bright sunlight for 3 to 4 hours only. Leaves exposed to the sun should be distilled the same day it is harvested. Indoor drying can be done in platforms near the boiler.

There are three types of distillation apparatus or stills: 1) water and steam stills, 2) direct steam, and 3) "godok-kans", an intermediate

between the first two types.

OIL YIELD

Citronella grass yields from 12 to 35 metric tons. With an average yield of 0.7 percent oil, citronella grass produces 84 to 247 kilograms oil per hectare.

Based on distillation trials conducted at the Leyte experiment station, a one-hectare area with 13,300 citronella plants produced 6,600 kilograms of leaves after 4 months which in turn distilled 17.9 kilograms of oil.

At P80 per kilogram, the value of citronella oil produced amounts to P1,432.

Distillation Trials of Citronella
Babatngon, Leyte Experiment Station

	4 months	6 months	one year
Plant population/ha	13,300	13,300	13,300
No. of suckers/hill	48	54	66
No. of suckers/ha	6,600	8,350	13,300
Weight of leaves/ha	638,400kg	718,200kg	877,800kg
Weight of oil produced	17.9kg	22.55kg	35.75kg
Value of oil P80/kg	P1,432.00	P1,804.00	P2,860.00

Delicious guayabano concoctions

GUAYABANO, guayabano or called soursoup in English is a small tree about 5 to 7 meters in height. Its fruit is large, pear-shaped with a sweet-sour flavor. Green with soft spines, it weighs about five kilos. The skin is thin and inside it is a soft but rather fibrous, white, fleshy pulp which has a very agreeable flavor but is rather sour.

Its mature, green fruit is used as vegetable and made into sweet meats, while the ripe fruit is eaten raw or for dessert.

A lot of concoctions can be made into guayabano like delicious sherbets, ice drops and fruit drinks. An assortment of cocktail drinks and punch can be made by mixing the nectar with wine rum or cola drinks or *buko* (fresh coconut) juice and ice.

Here are some ways of processing guayabano:

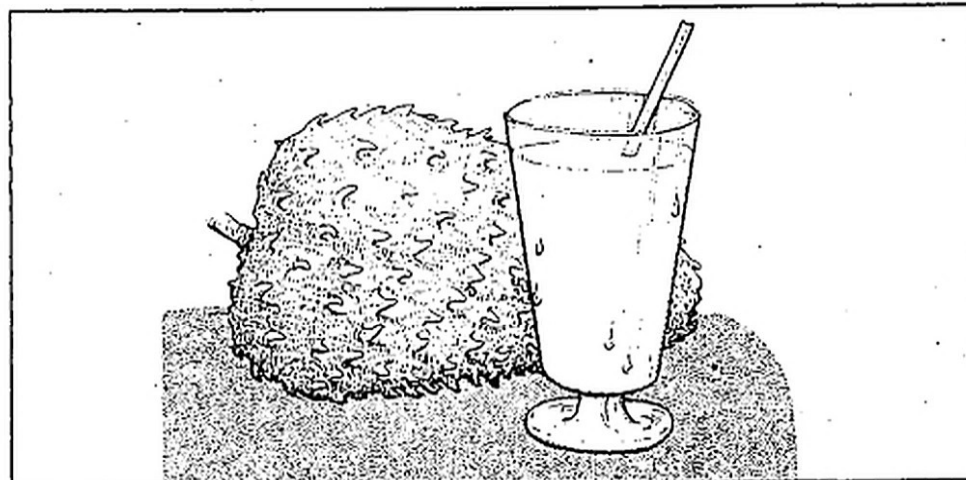
Guayabano Nectar

Wash and peel guayabano. Remove core and seeds. Cut into small pieces. Mix two cups water for every three cups of pulp.

Pass guayabano pulp through a juice extractor or a corn mill grinder. Add little by little so juice can be fully extracted.

Strain through a stainless steel strainer. Measure extracted pulp juice and add one cup of water for every two cups juice. Add one cup sugar for every 3 1/2 cups of this pulp mixture.

Pass sugared mixture through a juice mixer or beat with a rotary egg beater. Place the mixture in an enamel casserole or a stainless steel kettle, and cook until it simmers. Do not let it boil. Lower the heat and stir from time to time until mixture becomes thick.



Pour cooked mixture into tall tin cans while still hot, leaving 1/4 inch space on top of the mixture. Seal the cans and place them in a pressure cooker for 15 minutes at 10 pounds pressure. Cool and label.

Guayabano Ade

1 kilo ripe guayabano
4 cups water
3/4 cup sugar
Calamansi juice

Wash and peel fruits. Remove the core (middle part of fruits and seeds). Then, cut pulp into small pieces.

Heat in four cups water. Cool. Strain mixture through a clean cheese cloth into a pitcher, then squeeze the juice out.

Add sugar and enough calamansi juice or make the mixture a little sour. Serve with ice cubes, adding a little sugar if desired. Or else, keep

cool in the refrigerator until merienda time.

Guayabano Jam

Remove core and seeds from ripe guayabano. Mash the pulp with wooden spoon or clean hands. Mix one cup sugar for every cup of pulp.

Cook, stirring constantly until mixture becomes thick. Pour in sterilized jars and seal tightly. Good for sandwiches.

Guayabano Preserve

Get firm and matured but not overripe, guayabano fruits. Remove core and seeds. Peel and cut into small pieces. Using a stainless knife, slice each piece thinly, about 1/4 inch thick, in a basinful of water.

Prepare syrup using two parts sugar to one part water, making it in proportion to the number of fruits used.

Boil guayabano strips in the syrup for 15 minutes. Then, soak in this same syrup overnight.

Next day, boil again for 30 minutes in the same syrup. Drain the syrup and pack in sterilized jars. Half-seal or put the covers half-on.

Place jars in a pressure cooker and sterilize for 30 minutes. Seal and use later as sandwich spread. (Compiled by Erlinda D. Magno)

PITAK PILIPINO

Natatanging magsasaka ng palay sa buong Asya at Pacifico '86

Ni Pete Samonte

MAIPAGMAMA-LAKI NATIN bilang isang Filipino si Rustico Pinili nang pinarangalan siyang natatanging magsasaka ng palay sa buong Asya at Pacifico '86 noong nagdiwang ng World Food Day sa Bangkok, Thailand.

Ang karangalang nabanggit ay kasunod ng kanyang pagkakahirang bilang natatanging magsasaka ng palay sa kategoryang sahod-ulan, sa taunang paligsahan ng Outstanding Farmer of the Year (OFY) sa pagtatangkil ng Jaycees at ng MAF. Siya ay umani ng 9.2 tonelada sa bawat ektarya.

Sa dalawang karangalang kanyang tinanggap, ang kapalit ay ang biglang pagtanyag ng kanyang pangalan, mahabang oras ng pakikipanayam sa iba't-ibang media, at sunud-sunod na paanyaya bilang panauhing tagapagsalita ng iba't-ibang organisasyon. Hanggang sa naisip ni G. Pinili kung paano siya bababa sa pedestal n katanyagan.

Gayunpaman, ang pagbabago ng istilo ng pamumuhay ni Mang Tiko ay hindi nagiging hadlang upang mapabayaan niya ang kanyang tunay na hanapbuhay. Patuloy niyang sinasaka ang kanyang limang ektaryang lupa sa San Francisco, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, kung saan siya ay nakikitang nag-aararo, nagtatanim, nagbobomba, nag-aabono o gumagapas.

Bukod sa napabantog niyang palayan, si Mang Tiko ay nangunguna rin sa pagtatanim ng sibuyas, bawang, kamatis, ampalaya, singkamas, sitaw at mais. Nakapagbenta siya ng dalawa hanggang tatlong pinatabang baka apat na beses



RUSTICO PINILI

isang taon at kumita nang kulang-kulang sa P200,000.

Anu-ano ang mga katangian ng kanyang tagumpay sa pagsasaka na maaring maging huwaran ng ibang magsasaka?

Unang-una, aniya, ay katalinuhan. Maituturing na ang pagsasaka ay isang malaking sugal kung kaya ang isang matalinong magsasaka ay kailangang masusing pag-aralan ang lahat ng risiko sa kanyang puhunan. Dapat niyang isaalang-alang ang sitwasyon sa bentahan ng kanyang produkto sa oras ng pag-aani, kalamidad, pag-atake ng peste at sakit, bagong teknolohiya at matalinong paggamit ng salapi.

Binigyang diin ni Mang Tiko ang pagbadyet, kung saan, aniya, marami nang magsasaka ang bumagsak sa pagkat walang talino sa paggasta. Sa kanyang obserbasyon, kapag ang magsasaka ay kumita ng piso, gagastos naman ito ng dalawang piso. Kapag panahon ng anihan, buhay sa maraming magsasaka ang beer at ginobra, sabungan, at ahente ng aplayanses. Ilang bahay sa baryo, tanong niya, ang mga matataas na antenna nguni't kapag pinasok mo ay walang telebisyon sapagkat inilit na ng ahente dahil hindi mahulugan? Hindi pa man nag-aani ay nagagasta na

ng karaniwang magsasaka ang kanilang anihin. Kapag nagkaroon ng di-inaasahang pagkakagastusan o dili kaya'y dumaplis ang ani, nasisira ang kanilang badyet kaalinsabay ng pagbagsak ng kanilang kabuhayan.

Sa panahon ngayon, nasa pinakamataas na andan ang mga magsasaka kung pagtulong ng pamahalaan ang pag-uusapan. May makabagong binhi, teknolohiya, tulong na pinasiyal, repornia sa lupa, mga teknikong handang sumubaybay sa lahat ng aspeto ng kanilang gawain sa bukid. "Wala nang hahanapin pa," dagdag ni Mang Tiko.

Ang pangalawang katangian ay ang kalusugan ng magsasaka. Kailangan ito, aniya, upang mapangatawanan ang lahat ng gawain sa bukid. Ang magsasakang may sakit ay hindi makalalabas sa bukid nang kasindalas ng magsasakang malusog.

Ang pangatlong katangian ay ang kasipagan. Marami sa magsasaka aniya ang nakalimutan na yatang mag-araro. Karaniwang makikita sila na nakatayo sa pilapil, nakapameywang at pinapanood ang traktoha habang ginagawa ang kanilang bukid. Ang pag-aalaga sa kanilang pananim ay ipinagkatiwala na lamang sa mga upahang kawaksi. Kung susumahin pagdating ng anihan, mas malaki pa ang gastos kaysa ani.

Bagamat nais ni Mang Tiko na bumaba sa rukok ng katanyagan, hindi siya maramot sa pagbibigay ng payo sa mga magsasaka. Ang binanggit niyang tatlong katangian ng matagumpay na magsasaka ang siya ring naghatid sa kanyang kinatatayuan ngayon.

Magtanim ng gabi

Ni Pacita M. Espejo



ANG GABI ay maitatanim sa buong taon habang mayroong sapat na halumigmig ang lupa, pagkat hindi ito namamanahon. Kailangan dito ang lupang mataba at buhaghag.

Ang gabi ay mayaman sa carbohydrate, bitamina at mineral. Ang nilagang laman ng gabi ay magagawang panghalili sa kanin. Mailalahok din ito sa ibang lutuin at kakanin. Ang mga dahon nitong mayaman sa bitamina A at C, kalsiyum at potasyo ay ginagawang ulam.

PAGTATANIM

SA KABABAAN AT MAY PATUBIG — Patubigan ang bukid sa loob

ng 3 araw saka aruruhin at sundan ng 2 hanggang 3 ulit na pagsusuyod. Ang mga uring may malalapad na dahon ay itinatanim nang 60 sentimetro agwat sa hanay na may 120 sentimetro pagitan. Sa mga uring malilit ang dahon, ang kinakailangang distansiya ay 45 sentimetro x 90 sentimetro.

Sa mga bukid na babad sa tubig, gumawa ng mga kamang pagtamnan at mapamamahalaan ang taas ng patubig nang hindi lalabis sa 10 sentimetro. Maglagay ng abonong ammophos (16-20-0) sa daming 200 kilo bawat ektarya pagkaraan ng tatlong buwan pagkatanim.

SA LUPANG KATAASAN — Simulan ang paghahanda ng lupa sandaling pumasok ang tag-ulan. Aruruhin ang bukid 2 hanggang 3 ulit. Sundan ng pagsusuyod ang bawat pag-aararo nang lingguhan ang pagitan. Itanim ang punlang mayroon nang usbong — isa sa bawat 40 sentimetro agwat sa mga tudling na 80 hanggang 90 sentimetro pagitan.

Upang magkaroon ng sapat na halumigmig at buhaghag na lupa, sa paligid ng lumalaking laman, isagawa ang pag-aararo nang palayo sa puno ang lupa (off-barring) sa ikatlong buwan pagkatanim at sundan ng pag-aarong patabon ang lupa sa puno (hilling-up) kasabay ang pag-aabono ng patabang ganap sa daming 300 kilo sa bawat ektarya. Ilagay ang abono sa magkabilang panig ng tudling.

Maaani ang gabi pagkaraan ng 7 hanggang 11 buwan pagkatanim. Pag nagsimulang manilaw ang mga dahon, maaani na ito. Mag-ani bago dumating ang tag-ulan. Makakaani ng 5-15 tonelada sa bawat ektarya.

PAGGAWA NG TAHO

Mga Sangkap

- ½ tasang utaw
- 3 tasang tubig na gagamitin sa paggiling ng utaw
- 4 tasang tubig na pagpapakuluan ng gulaman
- 1 baretang gulaman (puti)

Paraan:

1. Piliin ang malalaki at bagong utaw.
2. Hugasan at ibabad nang magdamag.
3. Balatan at gilingin.
4. Pakuluin ang tubig at ihulog ang gulaman. Pabayang matunaw.
5. Isalin ang giniling na utaw sa kaserolang may tunaw na gulaman. Pakuluan sa loob ng 7 minuto.
6. Salain para makuha ang katas ng utaw at hayaang mabuo.
7. Ihain nang may arni-bal at sago.

Cattle dispersal sa Pampanga

TATLUMPUNG Magsasaka buhat sa Candaba, Mabalacat at Gagua, Pampanga ang tumanggap ng baka kamakailan sa ilalim ng programang cattle dispersal sa MAF at ng pamahalaang panlalawigan.

Ginanap ang pag-aabot ng kontrata sa pag-aalaga ng baka sa mga magsasaka sa panlalawigan tanggapan ng MAF, pinangunahan ni Pampanga gobernador Bren Z. Guiao, mga OICs ng bayang nabanggit, MAF regional director Renato M. Bulay, provincial agriculturist Saturnino Ronquillo at provincial veterinarian Augusto Baluyut, Jr.

Samantala sa bayan ng San Simon, namahagi ng baka sa limampung magsasaka, kaugnay pa

rin ng programang cattle dispersal. Ito ay katuparan sa pangako ni Minister Mitra nang siya ay dumalaw sa nasabing bayan kamakailan.

Ang cattle dispersal ay programa ng Bureau of Animal Industry na naglalayong maparami at maitaas ang uri ng alagang baka. Ang mga benepisyaryo ay may pananagutan na ibalik sa Ministri ang unang magiging anak ng baka pagsapit ng 10-12 buwan ang gulang.

Isa pang pagbabago ay ang pagpapaseguro muna ng baka ng benepisyaryo bago ilipat ang responsibilidad sa kani-la. Kaya't mawala nan ito o mamatay sa sakit, kahit paano'y may kapalit ang pagkawala nito. (P. Samonte)